

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN VERTICAL PROSECUTION PROGRAM

Component: 50.20.161, 40.20.161

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Violence Against Women Vertical Prosecution Program was initiated in 2002 funded with federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) S*T*O*P Formula Block Grant Program funds. The purpose of this program is to fund specialized units in prosecutors' offices in California to vertically prosecute crimes against women, including sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and dating violence. Vertical prosecution has shown to:

- Improve conviction rates;
- Reduce victim trauma; and,
- Provide more consistent and appropriate sentencing.

There are four mandatory objectives for the projects funded under this program:

- Increase prosecution and conviction rates of violent crimes against women as measured by the total number of cases projected to be assigned/accepted by the unit.
- Achieve vertical prosecution standards as measured by the number of cases to be prosecuted in each of the categories: True, Major Stage, and Unit.
- Reduce specialized caseloads by a minimum of one-third (excluding warrant cases) as measured by the comparison to the non unit caseloads.
- Ensure minimization of trauma to victims of specified crimes as measured in advocate employee direct services or referrals to local victim service agencies.

FUNDS AWARDED

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Types of Funding</u>	<u>Total Funding</u>
FY 2008/09	Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) FFY 2008	\$ 2,010,689
FY 2009/10	Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) FFY 2009	\$ 2,199,230
FY 2010/11		Unknown

2008/09 PERFORMANCE STATISTICS

<u>\$195,689</u>	VAWA-funded Threat Management Program funds reallocated in three equal parts to Alameda County DA, San Francisco City & County DA, and San Joaquin County DA for focus on Stalking prosecution.
<u>3,236</u>	Cases involving violence against women (including sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking) were reviewed.
<u>1,587</u>	Cases were filed.
<u>1,038</u>	Cases resulted in conviction.
<u>10</u>	Cases resulted in an acquittal or mistrial.
<u>236</u>	Cases were dismissed.

2009/10 PERFORMANCE STATISTICS

Not Available

2010/11 PERFORMANCE STATISTICS

Not Available